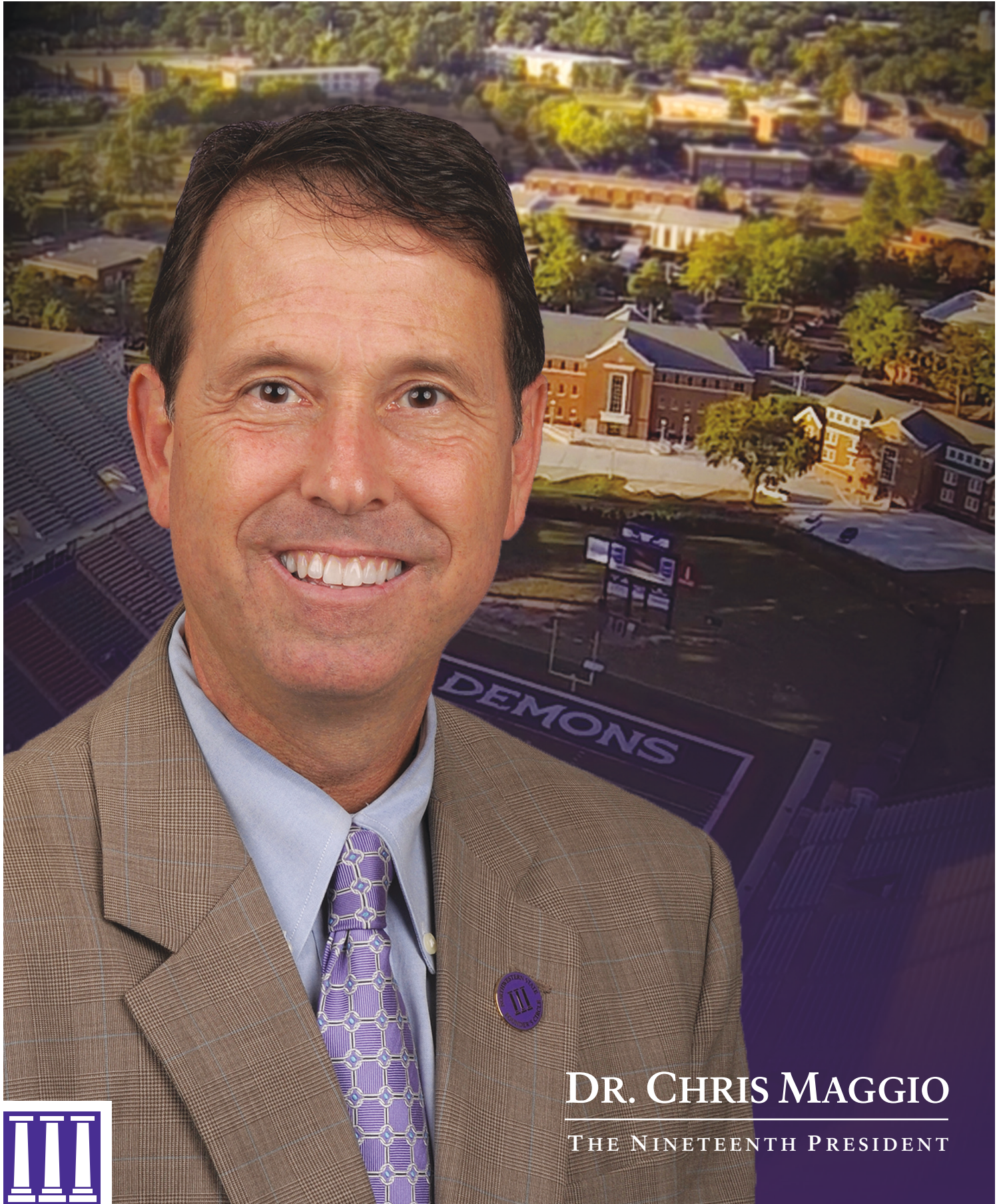


SUMMER 2017 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine



DR. CHRIS MAGGIO

THE NINETEENTH PRESIDENT





*Dr. Chris Maggio
1985, 1991
President
Northwestern State
University*

My fellow alumni:

As most of you know, I was honored this past May to be selected as the 19th president of Northwestern State University. I want each of you to know how truly privileged and humbled I am to have the opportunity to serve you in this role. I appreciated and enjoyed serving you as acting president for four months and look forward to working with you as we continue to expand upon the excellence at Northwestern State University.

During the presidential search process, I was able to articulate some of the elements that make Northwestern so special to me and important to our region. We are blessed to have a wonderfully diverse student body, students that are rural, urban, in-state, out-of-state, online, adult learners and those at our satellite campuses. We have a world class faculty at NSU and many staff members who go above and beyond to support our students. NSU has benefited from an exceptional relationship with the city and parish that is a model for other university communities. We have a rejuvenated alumni base and we are developing innovative partnerships with business and industry that ensure our graduates are poised for career success.

My wife Jennifer and our children have made a full family commitment be a part of this campus. I'm going to work hard and I'm going to work tirelessly. We will continue to foster a culture of transparent communication, collaboration and shared governance that will strengthen our university. This is not my vision; this is **our** vision. Collectively we are going to reach our vision to be the nation's premier regional university.

Thank you so very much for the overwhelming support that I have received. I have been deeply heartened and strengthened by this experience. We have an amazing Northwestern family.



*Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement*

Dear Alumni:

Twelve years ago, as a graduate student at Northwestern State, I was assigned to interview an administrator and was immediately struck by the excitement and enthusiasm that cause people to gravitate to Dr. Chris Maggio. He gave me my first job at NSU and I have worked on and off for Dr. Maggio ever since. It is an honor to work for and with him as our university president.

Having just celebrated another spring commencement -- which included a wonderful gathering of 50-year graduates -- and as we prepare to welcome incoming students for Freshman Connection, it is easy to see Demon pride in both our newest students and our loyal alumni. Our campus is a hive of activity throughout the summer months with camps for athletes, musicians, artists, young scholars and citizens attending Louisiana Boys and Girls State. Our staff strive to make a strong and lasting impression on these youngsters with the intention they will one day be welcomed back for Freshman Connection.

You will often hear Dr. Maggio reference a rekindled sense of pride and engagement among you, our alumni. We speak often of a shared vision for our alma mater that is poised to become the nation's premier regional university. We speak about a shared focus on the student experience, academic excellence, athletic prominence, market responsiveness and community enrichment. We speak about the collaboration that will be necessary to realize our vision. We are working very hard towards that goal and your help and support is always appreciated.

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2nd Vice President..... Caron Chester Coleman,
Natchitoches, 2000
Secretary..... Patricia Hrapmann, New Orleans, 1973, 1978
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Otha "Tre" Nelson..... Baton Rouge, SGA President
Publisher..... Drake Owens, 2004, 2005
Editor Leah Pilcher Jackson, 1994, 2011
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Mr. NSU

Natchitoches native, career Demon Chris Maggio takes the helm as NSU's 19th president

Dr. Chris Maggio began his tenure as Northwestern State University's 19th president May 12 as the university celebrated spring commencement. With a ceremonial handing down of the President's Chain, Dr. Jim Henderson, NSU's immediate past president and the current president of the University of Louisiana System, made the transition official and Maggio, who has spent his professional life devoted to the university and served as acting president since January, humbly accepted the office.

Known for his positive energy, Maggio embraced his new role with characteristic enthusiasm, promising that he would work tirelessly and make the university that has been an integral part of his life for nearly 30 years proud.

"The cornerstone of my presidency will be the passion and fervor that I bring to the office. There will not be a minute's pause in the momentum and success our university has experienced," Maggio said when elected by the ULS Board of Supervisors. "I appreciate the confidence the Board of Supervisors has placed in me. It is an honor to take the role as president full time and I look forward to collaborating with students, faculty and staff to ensure the university continues on its positive trajectory."

A lifelong resident of Natchitoches, Maggio is a 1985 summa cum laude graduate of Northwestern State. As a student-athlete for the cross country and track teams, Maggio was the first recruit for Coach Leon Johnson in August 1982 and was part of Johnson's first championship team in his 31 seasons as head coach, the 1985 Gulf Star Conference champs. During his senior year was elected Mr. NSU by his fellow students.

"There's always been from the early days, kind of a standing joke with Chris," said Johnson, 77. "We'd say, 'Someday you're either going to be president of the university, or mayor of Natchitoches.' I guess this way is ideal, because he can help two things he loves, NSU and Natchitoches, and it's a perfect fit. All these years, from athlete to coach and as he's advanced in different positions at the university, he's been phenomenal."

The cornerstone of my presidency will be the passion and fervor that I bring to the office. There will not be a minute's pause in the momentum and success our university has experienced.



Dr. Chris Maggio assumed the office of president of Northwestern State University May 12, which coincided with spring commencement. Immediate past president Dr. Jim Henderson formally passed down the President's Chain, which holds the seal of the university and engraved platelets that bear the names of all previous NSU presidents and the years they served.



Maggio has a way of connecting with people, especially students, and extending relationships well past graduation day. As a track coach, one of his greatest recruits and success stories as a coach at NSU is N-Club Hall of Fame distance runner Maryalyce Walsh Cox.

"The reason I came to Northwestern State was Coach Maggio, and I'll always call him Coach," she said. "He recruited me and said he would run with us. He promoted Natchitoches, was so proud of this town. He would get up early in the morning and run with us, or just run with me if I was training alone, if I was doing a long run. He'd be out there running or riding his bike, keeping me company and encouraging me, even protecting me from dogs that scared me. He always made sure I was safe and happy."

Maggio earned his master's of education at NSU. He received a doctorate in developmental education from Grambling State University. He joined the staff at Northwestern State as women's track and field coach in 1988.

Maggio's wife, the former Jennifer Zeagler of Winnfield, earned a graduate degree in Student Personnel Services at NSU in 1992. They have three children, Melanie, 22; Scott, 19, and Emily, 15, and this July celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

Last year, Maggio was named vice president for the student experience at Northwestern State after serving as interim vice president for just over

a year. He maintained his role as vice president for the student experience while serving as acting president. "Chris is passionate about the university and with his experience and knowledge I am confident he will be a positive leader for the entire community," Henderson said.

"Dr. Maggio has dedicated the last 29 years to building strong relationships with our students, faculty, alumni, legislators and other key stakeholders," said Scott Andrews, vice-president of the NSU Foundation Board of Directors, who was a member of the Board of Supervisors Presidential Search Committee. "There is no one better equipped to successfully lead NSU through the current challenges facing all institutions of higher education in Louisiana."

Maggio has been a fixture at campus activities and events, ball games and performing arts programs, interacting with students, faculty and staff while advocating for NSU on higher education issues at the state level.

He has long been a supporter of the nation's military and earlier this year initiated a program to honor veterans at all home basketball games. Maggio has been actively engaged in recruiting, traveling to schools and events all over the state, and his approachability resonates with current and prospective students.

"Outstanding is one of the first words you think of when you think of Dr. Maggio as the president of Northwestern," said NSU Alumni Association President Monty Chicola. "But there were so many other words that instantly jump into your mind. Seasoned, tested, proven, worthy, leader, purple blooded, students first, knowledgeable and ready. He will be to Northwestern as president as the beloved mayors have been to the City of Natchitoches. The university and the city will keep getting better." Northwestern State has recorded enrollment increases for the past two years. Enrollment for the Fall 2016 semester was 9,819 students, a seven percent increase over the previous fall, the highest growth rate of any University of Louisiana System institution. Spring enrollment was 9,191 students, an increase of 6.1 percent over the spring 2016 semester.





Dr. Maggio wished good luck to this year's NSU students who will compete in the Miss Louisiana pageant. From left are Stephanie Parker, Miss Natchitoches; Emily Jackson, Miss Greater Baton Rouge; Maria Rome, Miss NSU-Lady of the Bracelet; Maggio, Hanna Teutsch, Miss Louisiana Port City; Erika Jarlock, Miss Benton, and Payton Curry, Miss Bossier City.



"Dr. Maggio will make a great president because he's got the legislative connections, experience and love for this university that will drive Northwestern State forward," said 2016-17 Student Government Association President John Pearce of Livonia. "He will maintain traditions while also bringing in new ideas."

As vice president, Maggio led the Dean of Students and the Offices of Admissions, Recruiting, Financial Aid, Student Activities and Organizations, First Year Experience and Leadership Development, Judicial Services, Counseling and Career Services, Student Life, the Student Activities Board, Student Government Association and Greek Life.

Maggio's experience with many aspects of the university structure provide him with insight on how departments on campus work together to serve students. He served as assistant vice president of external affairs for university advancement from 2013 until 2015. He was named Dean of Students and assistant provost for student success in 2007. Maggio was selected as director of alumni affairs in 1999, director of alumni and development in 2003 and executive director of the NSU Foundation in 2005.

Under his leadership, the NSU Foundation completed its first capital campaign in Northwestern's history, exceeding a campaign goal of \$18.84 million and raising \$31 million to support the university. He has also been a faculty member in the Department of Health and Human Performance for more than 20 years as an instructor, assistant professor and associate professor. He also served as director of admissions and recruiting and director of enrollment services.

"We've seen him progress because of his love for this school, the love for the students and the love for alumni, myself included," Cox said. "Chris Maggio has never met a stranger. He makes you feel so welcome, so important, and he always asks about our kids, how we're doing in our lives. He's just so concerned about everyone else."

An investiture to formally install Maggio as president will take place this fall. Details will be announced as they are finalized.



Veteran awarded diploma during Golden Jubilee

Curtis Bodin faithfully served in the U.S. Army, raised a family and won multiple national sales championships in a division of pharmaceutical company Abbott Laboratories.

But Bodin, a Lafayette resident, always felt “an emptiness” in his life for not finishing his Northwestern State degree.

What Bodin didn’t know is that he completed enough hours to receive an associate’s degree, and the 72 year-old fulfilled a life-long dream this past May when he walked across the NSU graduation stage -- 50 years after he would have received his original degree

Just before his senior year, Bodin was drafted into the Army. After five years in the military, Bodin had family obligations that prevented him from completing his bachelor’s degree. However, he had earned enough hours to earn an associate degree from NSU.

Last spring, Bodin attended a Sigma Tau Gamma reunion and struck up a conversation with Associate Director of Alumni Affairs Van Erikson.

“I was curious why I received an invitation to the Golden Jubilee even though I never graduated,” said Bodin. “I attended alumni events and Sigma Tau Gamma reunions over the years, but didn’t feel like I was an alumnus since I didn’t graduate. I asked Van why I got an invitation and he said he would look into it.”

Several days later, Erikson called Bodin to let him know he would be receiving his degree.

“When I found out, it was the biggest shock of my life,” said Bodin. “I always felt an emptiness because I was not able to graduate.”

In the mid 1960s, Bodin was enjoying his time at Northwestern State. He was majoring in accounting and was a member of Sigma Tau Gamma. Bodin was on the staff of the campus yearbook, Potpourri. Things suddenly changed.

“I got a letter from Uncle Sam that said ‘We Want You,’” said Bodin.

Bodin did basic training at Fort Polk, and then was stationed around the country as he learned to pilot a helicopter. Bodin received the rank of warrant officer and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

“I praise Northwestern for preparing me to go into the military,” said Bodin.

“I had never flown anything other than a kite, but they prepared me for what I did for the rest of my life.”

After a tour of duty in Vietnam, Bodin returned home and received an honorable discharge. He had an 18-month old daughter and six-month old son and needed to provide for them.



“Going back to college to finish my degree just wasn’t in the cards,” he said.

Bodin put his skills to work as a helicopter pilot in the oil industry for four years. He decided to make a major career change and applied for a job in pharmaceutical sales with Ross Products, a division of Abbott Laboratories.

In a 25-year sales career, Bodin won seven company national championships in sales, the most ever by anyone in the sales district, but his career in sales wouldn’t have gotten started without a Ross executive willing to take a chance on him.

“The pharmaceutical sales field required a college education,” said Bodin. “The gentlemen who hired me realized I was as prepared as the others he hired with a degree and got a waiver to hire me.”

Bodin retired in 2003. The May 12 commencement at NSU was another milestone for Bodin and he received a standing ovation.

“This fills a big hole for me,” he said. “Even as I talk about it, I get a bit emotional.”





Stewart Ewing, a 1973 graduate of Northwestern State's School of Business, delivered the commencement address to the more than 800 graduates who earned degrees during spring commencement. Ewing is executive vice president and chief financial officer for CenturyLink, which employs 42,000 people worldwide, including 2,500 at its Monroe headquarters. Ewing is the longest-serving chief financial officer of all Fortune 500 companies in the nation. For his accomplishments in business, he was awarded the Monroe Chamber of Commerce's Kitty DeGree Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award. He and his wife Hillary Kagan have three children and three grandchildren.

NSU will waive out-of-state fees for students who qualify

Northwestern State University has received approval from the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System to waive non-resident fees for any non-resident student whose parent earned at least an associate degree from any regionally accredited college or university in Louisiana.

"Northwestern State plans to use the lower fees to more effectively recruit non-resident students," said President Dr. Chris Maggio. "For many students, out-of-state tuition can be quite a burden. This waiver will make the university more attractive to out-of-state students and should help us increase future enrollment."

The waiver was established by Act 455 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Director of University Recruiting Jana Lucky said many NSU alumni, like those of other Louisiana institutions, maintain strong ties to the state and want to see their children educated in Louisiana.

"In recruiting in Texas, Arkansas and other states, we frequently encounter students who express strong interest in NSU's degree programs, but find the out-of-state fees an additional hardship in paying for college," said Lucky. "This fee waiver will help us attract high-achieving students with ties to Louisiana who want to take advantage of the exceptional student experience at NSU."

Lucky encouraged NSU alumni to contact the Office of University Recruiting as soon as their children reach high school so they can receive information from Northwestern State. Children of NSU alumni are classified as top priority students.

For more information on the waiver, contact the Office of University Recruiting at (318) 357-4503 or go to nsula.edu/future-students.



Lusetta Rogers Anthony was among the graduates from the Class of 1967 to collect her 50-year diploma during Spring Commencement as part of the Golden Jubilee 50th reunion. Anthony was the first African American ever to cross the stage as a graduate of NSU and taught at Natchitoches Central High School for over 30 years. She is pictured with Vanner Erikson, assistant director of Alumni Affairs.

Nominations are open for Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development Alumni Advisory Board is seeking nominations for the Hall of Distinguished Educators for 2017.

Nominees must have earned an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degree from an NSU teacher preparation program at 30 years ago and must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community at a local, state, national or international level. Nominees can be living or deceased.

Nominations are also open for Distinguished Young Professional in Education, an award that recognizes an

outstanding young professional who has made contributions in Pre-K through higher education or to the profession of education through teaching, research or community service. Nominees must be 40 years old or younger, have at least 10 years of meritorious service to education and gained prominence in some areas of teaching, administrative achievement, contributions to research, leadership in professional associations, contributions to professional literature and outstanding community service. Nominees should be of high moral character whose contributions have most fully expressed the spirit of service the award represents.

Inductees will be honored during

a brunch and induction ceremony at the Teacher Education Center during Homecoming festivities.

The deadline to submit nominations is July 28.

Anyone who would like to nominate an outstanding College of Education alumnus who has had a distinguished career in education should send the nominee's resume and other documentation outlining the reason for the nomination to NSU Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497.

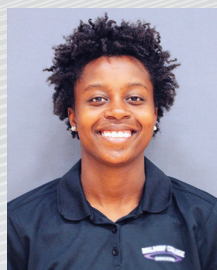
Nomination forms and additional information are available by calling (318) 357-6278.



Long Purple Line

Northwestern State University honored five individuals with induction in the university's Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line. Honorees were, from left, world-renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Julian Bailes, noted attorney G.F. Thomas Jr., vocalist and philanthropist Lenn Dohmann Prince, the late Joe Delaney represented by his wife Carolyn and Dr. Jim Henderson, former NSU president and current president of the University of Louisiana System. The five were recognized during a luncheon, attended by alumni, family and friends, in which their lives and accomplishments were highlighted in biographical mini-documentaries. Since 1990, NSU has inducted 125 distinguished alumni into the Long Purple Line, recognizing graduates whose lives and careers had great impact for the university, in the community and beyond.

Spotlights



Alexandria Jackson was named head coach of the Waldorf University women's soccer program. Waldorf is a private coeducational liberal arts-based institution in Forest City, Iowa.

Jackson served as an assistant coach for the Warriors the past three years and is poised to help the program further its level of success. Jackson helped the Warriors make significant strides during the 2016 campaign. Waldorf recorded five consecutive shutouts to set a new school record and established the program's longest unbeaten streak in the process. Jackson is looking forward to the opportunity to push the Warriors to the new heights.

A Florence, S.C. native, Jackson graduated from West Florence High School in 2010. During her high school athletic career, Jackson participated in

a program that sent her to play soccer in Germany during the summers.

Jackson was a four-year NCAA Division I soccer player at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. During her career, she finished her freshman year with three starts and appeared in 19 matches for a total of 990 minutes as a forward. Jackson ranked first on the team with four game-winning goals. After battling an injury as a sophomore, Jackson saw action and started in 10 games while logging 700 minutes. In her junior season, she appeared in 16 matches and started 15 times to accumulate more than 1,000 minutes of play. During that season, Jackson played a key role in the Lady Demon backline. As a senior, Jackson started and played in all 19 matches for a total of 1,715 minutes. Playing a pivotal defensive role, she assisted on two goals.

Jackson graduated from Northwestern State in 2014 with a bachelor's of science degree in health and exercise science. She went on to obtain a master's of science degree in organizational leadership from Columbia Southern University. Jackson earned a National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) national diploma and is certified with a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) E License.

FACS name changing to Child and Family Studies

Northwestern State University is changing the name of its Family and Consumer Sciences program to better reflect the degree's focus, which is child development and family theory. This fall, the program will be called Child and Family Studies, a discipline that prepares graduates to work in a variety of fields aimed at improving the lives of individuals, families and communities. Child and Family Studies is part of the Department of Teaching, Leadership and Counseling within the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development.

"It is often called 'The Helping Profession,' which makes it is a good fit for anyone who wants to help people or work with people," said Dr. Rania Salman, program coordinator, who emphasizes that the program is about much more than working with children. "Individuals interested in working with non-profit organizations, community education or social services would fall under the degree. It's a broad area."

Career opportunities for graduates can be found in family resource services, community-based social services, education, research, public policy and family wellness, to name a few. Jobs could include working with youth development, vocational guidance, Head Start programs, parent education, disability services, public health programs, human resources and family policy analysis.

The most popular concentration in Child and Family Studies is child development and family relations, in which about 200 NSU students are enrolled. The consumer services concentration has about 15 students. Salman would like to eventually add an advocacy and intervention concentration, an interdisciplinary concentration that would infuse coursework in social work, psychology and special education to prepare professionals to advocate for children and/or families that need advocacy or specific intervention.

"There is the opportunity to work as an advocate for families who want to adopt. There are also organizations that set up programs in schools to meet the psychological and academic needs of children and families who are experiencing hardships. There are those in the field of child life who work as specialists in hospitals to normalize trauma for medically fragile children and their families. This degree is perfect for that," Salman said.

Child and Family Studies requires a minor and many students choose social science as a complementary focus. Salman said students majoring in programs related to health and wellness could find a minor or concentration in Child and Family Studies beneficial, such as nursing majors interested in pediatric nursing or becoming a birthing coach, doula or lactation consultant.

"I tell students that the more urban the area, the more likely you are to find a job," Salman said. "Family science careers tend to be in more urban areas where social service agencies and non-profits tend to be located."

The program's child development and family relations concentration can be completed online, although there are some face-to-face classes available. Senior-level students are required

**"It is often called
'The Helping Profession,'
which makes it is a good fit
for anyone who wants to
help people or
work with people."**

— Dr. Rania Salman

to complete an internship related to their concentration. The internship, which provides hands-on field experience, is one of the program's strengths in that it often provides a path to employment for graduates.

Until about 30 years ago, courses in Family and Consumer Sciences were referred to as home economics or domestic science, the field of study that was often the background

for educators and human services professionals. As the field has evolved, the national trend has shifted away from identifying as FACS. Indicative of the trend, two years ago, NSU moved its hospitality management and tourism (HMT) and culinary arts program out of FACS and into the School of Business.

The roots of Child and Family Studies at NSU are in the Domestic Science and Art program established on campus in 1911 when classes in child development were an extension of family health management. In the 1930s, Dr. Marie Shaw Dunn, department head, created a child development concentration and, in order to provide a laboratory experience for her students, established the nursery school on campus that is now the Child Development Center. Eventually, child development broadened into early childhood education. NSU established a master's program in early childhood education in 1971. In 2003, the early childhood degree program was redesigned to certify teachers for pre-kindergarten through third grade.

For more information on NSU's Child and Family Studies program, contact Salman at salmanr@nsula.edu or call (318) 357-4202.



Louisiana Senate President Pro Tempore Gerald Long, third from right, Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System member Winfred Sibille and Northwestern State University President Dr. Chris Maggio unveil the sign for the Jimmy D. Long Sr. Student Services Center at NSU as, from left, Jimmy D. Long Jr., 2016 Miss NSU Leighann Westfall and Mrs. Jimmy D. Long Sr. look on.

Jimmy D. Long Sr. Student Services Center dedicated

Friends, family and former colleagues of Jimmy D. Long Sr. recalled his distinguished life and career at the dedication of the Jimmy D. Long Student Services Center at Northwestern State University.

Long served eight consecutive terms in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1968 to 2000. He was appointed to Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System in 2001. Long passed away in August.

Former legislators, NSU students and university leaders told a large crowd at the dedication about Long's nearly half-century of work on behalf of education.

"Mr. Long had a great impact on the state, community and Northwestern State that was enormous and will be everlasting," said Northwestern State President Dr. Chris Maggio. "This is one of the highest honors we can bestow upon an individual. This is not just a monument or landmark, but is a building our students and prospective students use every day."

The Jimmy D. Long Student Services Center was completed in 2012. The 34,451 square foot facility is on the former site of West Caspari Hall. The \$8.5 million Student Services Center was the first state-funded new building constructed on the Northwestern State campus in more than 30 years.

"Mr. Long stood for students and this is a way to honor him," said University of Louisiana System President Dr. Jim Henderson. "It is a dedication to his spirit and legacy."

The Student Services Center is home to the Offices of University Recruiting, First Year Experience and Leadership Development, Financial Aid, Student Employment Scholarships, Admissions, Veteran's Affairs and the Vice President for the Student Experience as well as the Registrar's Office, One Card Office and Cashier's Office.

"Look past the brick, concrete and glass and look at what happened to make this building a reality," said NSU Student Government Association President John Pearce. "The foundation was being laid because of Mr. Long's dedication to students. He had a passion for education and fought for students."

Board of Supervisors member Lola Dunahoe of Natchitoches served with Long on the Presidential Search Committee that selected Dr. Jim Henderson as Northwestern State's president in 2014. She was able to see Long's concern for Northwestern and its students

"He never saw himself as more important than the next person. He was a member of a team and wanted what was best for Louisiana. His footprints on this university will last through eternity."

Long continued from page 8

first-hand.

"He brought to the search a level of calm and caring. His underlying thought that nothing was too good for Northwestern," said Dunahoe. "All of us looked to him for guidance. To his family, I want to say thank you for sharing him with us."

Former Louisiana Speaker of the House Joe Salter recalled that Long was "a mentor and a friend" when they served together in the legislature.

"He had a great influence on Northwestern and higher education," said Salter, who represented Sabine and Red River parishes in the House of Representatives. "He made this institution stronger and the state stronger."

Louisiana Senate President Pro Tempore Sen. Gerald Long followed his brother into public service and is his third term in the Senate. Gerald Long recalled their mutual love of Northwestern along with his brother's unique way of giving advice.

"Over the years, he and I spent hours taking about this university," said State Senate President-Pro Tempore Gerald Long, Jimmy Long Sr.'s brother. "I would go to him for counsel and he never told me what to do, but always gave good suggestions. He was a valuable mentor."

Jimmy D. Long Sr. dealt with a variety of issues as a legislator, but none were more important to him than education.

"The Longs have always been champions of education," said Gerald Long. "He saw that one way for people to grow and prosper was through public education."

Sen. Long said his brother never sought the spotlight and was quick to credit others for accomplishments he had a role in.

"He never saw himself as more important than the next person," said Gerald Long. "He was a member of a team and wanted what was best for Louisiana. His footprints on this university will last through eternity."

Jimmy D. Long Sr. served two terms as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, which is the governing board for Northwestern State University and eight other universities across the state. It is the largest higher education system in Louisiana with more than 90,000 students.

Long's 32-year tenure in the legislature was one of the longest in the state's history, and colleagues recognized him with a resolution during his last term designating him as "Dean of the Legislature."

Chairman of the House Education Committee for 16 years and a long-time member of the Southern Regional Education Board, Long was recognized as a leading authority in Louisiana and throughout the South on education-related legislation.

He introduced legislation to establish the Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern and was also an author of the bill to create the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts in Natchitoches.

Cited by The Times of Shreveport as one of the "100 Most Influential People of the Century in Northwest Louisiana, Long is a member of the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame and the Northwestern Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line.



2016-17 Student Government Association President John Pearce (2017) and former NSU First Lady Tonia Henderson (1993) unveiled a bust of the Italian poet Dante Alighieri placed in front of the NSU Student Union to honor Dr. Jim Henderson, immediate past president.

'Be as a Tower'

SGA unveils Dante bust to honor Henderson

Northwestern State University's Student Government Association unveiled a special monument to honor former university president Dr. Jim Henderson last spring.

Following Henderson's induction into NSU's Long Purple Line, the university's alumni hall of distinction, SGA President John Pearce of Livonia and former NSU first lady Tonia Henderson unveiled a bust of Dante Alighieri, the Italian scholar, philosopher and poet of the late Middle Ages who is much admired by Henderson. The bust and a bench named for Dr. and Mrs. Henderson, both NSU alumni, were placed in front of the NSU Student Union in the heart of campus.

The bust of Dante includes a quote from "The Divine Comedy" that reads "Be as a tower that, firmly set, shakes not its top for any blast that blows."

Henderson, who served as NSU's president for two years, often drew correlations between Dante's work and references to NSU, such as the Demon Inferno and the quote "Lasciate ogni speranza voi ch'entrate (Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.)." He also noted that Dante's use of Italian vernacular, rather than Latin, made his work accessible to individuals outside the upper classes and academia.

The installation was cast by NSU Professor of Art Corbin Covher in a project coordinated by SGA Advisor Shayne Creppel (2010, 2013).



Northwestern State University and Campus Living Villages marked the beginning of the Varnado Hall renovation and reveal plans for the historic building that will be transformed into a 21st century living/learning community for students in the School of Creative and Performing Arts. From left are CLV CEO Gary Clarke, Dr. Greg Handel, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Chris Maggio, NSU's president.

CLV unveils plans to breathe new life into Varnado Hall

Campus Living Villages and Northwestern State University hosted a ceremony to mark the beginning of significant renovation to Varnado Hall and reveal plans for the historic building in April. Varnado will be transformed into a 21st century living/learning residential college for students in the School of Creative and Performing Arts and is expected to be open for Fall 2017.

"The demand for housing is growing," said NSU's President Dr. Chris Maggio, who noted that over the last several years, NSU has renovated and repurposed several historic buildings to meet contemporary student needs. The Varnado project is a collaboration between students, faculty, staff and Campus Living Villages that will benefit "one of our shining lights, our School of Creative and Performing Arts."

Constructed in 1939, Varnado Hall is geographically close to the Creative and Performing Arts complex and in addition to 128 residential rooms will include practice rooms, a music studio and other amenities for CAPA students. The building's historic ballroom will be transformed into a space where performances and other events will take place and faculty rectors will to oversee programming that promotes artistic engagement.

Ian Cassidy of Covington, a senior and third year music student, spoke on behalf of his peers to express apprecia-

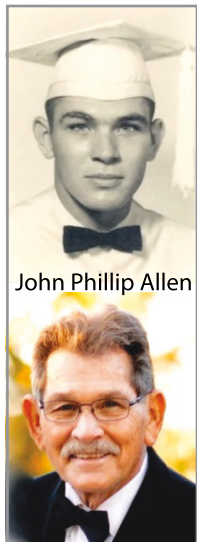
tion that Varnado is being refurbished specifically for CAPA students who carry musical instruments across campus to and from rehearsals.

"Varnado Hall is going to be something we've never seen before," he said. "It provides everything and more for the performing arts students. The importance of the amenities can not be overstated. The locale is perfect."

Gary Clarke, CEO of Campus Living Villages, said he "holds NSU up as the exemplar of partnership." CLV is a global student accommodation provider with services in finance, design, development, project management and operation of student housing and is one of the largest student housing providers in the world. He said the \$10 million project will result in an exceptional student experience and that his personnel will be working through weekends to ensure the building is ready for students this fall.

"Everyone involved has imagined this to be an extension of what the Creative and Performing Arts already do, and an enhancement of the student experience in CAPA," said Dr. Greg Handel, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "We hope that Varnado, much like the CAPA Complex, becomes a place where students embrace their collaborative and artistic spirits to create a community of artists."

Friends create scholarship to honor 1959 Robeline classmate



John Phillip Allen

Two friends in Robeline High School's graduating class of 1959 have established a scholarship to honor a classmate and benefit a student from a rural area of Louisiana. Edward McWilliams of College Station, Texas, and Norman Hicks of Natchitoches created the John Phillip Allen, Class of 1959 Scholarship in honor of their friend, a long-time educator and administrator.

The annual scholarship will be awarded to a Northwestern State University student from Louisiana seeking a bachelor's degree with preference given to a student from Robeline or other rural community. The student must maintain a B average.

"John Phillip grew up on a small farm and was very much involved with agriculture," McWilliams said, describing his friend as a hard worker and a self-made man. "He was one of the most motivated teachers I've ever met and I could see that, even in the eighth grade. He was a natural born teacher."

McWilliams, who is a professor emeritus of horticultural sciences at Texas A&M University, said he and Hicks specified the scholarship go to a rural student because those students often have less financial opportunities available to them.

"The 1959 Robeline graduating class was made up of about 24 students and everyone knew everyone," McWilliams said. He recalled Allen playing basketball with Hicks and other friends.

After graduating from Robeline High School, Allen earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern State in 1963 and a master's from Louisiana Tech in 1967. He was the first in his family to attend college. He coached and taught at several Louisiana high schools in Caddo Parish and at Dubberly High School, where he coached the basketball team to a state championship. In 1973, he moved to Dallas as a middle school math teacher for the Dallas Independent School District and spent 34 years as a teacher, assistant principal, assistant principal and administrator. He retired in 2007 after working as an adjunct education professor at the University of Texas at Dallas, where the Phillip Allen Teacher Development Scholarship was established in his memory.

Allen passed away Feb. 11, 2016, at age 74. He is survived by his wife Rosemarie and three children who all became educators.

"John Phillip had a gift and a passion for working with hard-to-reach students and developed many successful programs and supports to assist high risk students," Hicks said. "He believed teaching was a calling rather than a profession or vocation."

"We were trying to do something local and tied to his youth," McWilliams said, in the hopes that other classmates and friends might want to contribute to the scholarship.

"The scholarship will aid qualified students from rural areas of Louisiana, including Robeline where John Phillip spent

Extra Mile Scholarships recognize service, leadership, academics



NSU alumni David and Sherry Morgan awarded Extra Mile scholarships to members of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority in recognition of academic success, leadership and service. On the front row from left are Abby Hinds, Myranda DeGraw, KayCee Collinsworth, Rebekah Aultman, Sherry and David Morgan, Hunter Martin, Kenedy Lampert, Madison Milligan and Mallory McConathy. On the back row are Michael Dailey, Thomas Marlborough, Jacob Guidry, Noah Baudoin and Dedrick Lewis. Not shown is David Johnson.

Members of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority and Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity were named recipients of Extra Mile Scholarships presented by NSU alumni David and Sherry Morgan. A recognition program for chapter members, recipients, their families, friends and alumni took place in April.

David Morgan, a 1973 NSU graduate and alumnus of NSU's Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, established the Extra Mile Scholarship in 2008 to recognize members who distinguish themselves through academic success, chapter leadership, campus involvement and part-time employment. The Tri Sigma scholarship was established this year to honor NSU and Alpha Zeta Chapter Alumna Sherry Fargerson Morgan and to recognize Tri Sigma members who best exemplify the ideals of scholarship, service and character.

Tri Sigma recipients were Rebekah Aultman of Mangham, KayCee Collinsworth of Castor, Myranda DeGraw of Baton Rouge, Abby Hines of Many, Kenedy Lampert of DeVille, Hunter Martin of Winnfield, Mallory McConathy of Stonewall and Madison Milligan of Shreveport.

Pi Kappa Phi recipients were Noah Baudoin of Shreveport, Michael Dailey of West Monroe, Jacob Guidry of Jennings, David Johnson of Denham Springs, Dedrick Lewis of Gonzales and Thomas Marlborough of Mandeville.

The Extra Mile Scholarships recognize students who are committed to going the "Extra Mile" to achieve success, according to Mr. and Mrs. Morgan. Qualifying members participate in an application process that is reviewed by chapter alumni before selections are made.

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Douglas McLaren Scholarship will benefit a DeSoto Parish student seeking advanced degree in education

Graduate students from DeSoto Parish will benefit from a scholarship created to honor long-time educator and admin-

istrator Douglas McLaren, who passed away April 20 at age 85. The scholarship was created to offer assistance to students seeking advanced degrees in education at Northwestern State University.

"Education was his first love," said his wife Patricia Todd McLaren. "He believed in education and he believed in higher education."

McLaren was born in Flora and graduated from Provencal High school in 1950. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1954. He graduated from Northwestern State with a degree in education and from Stephen F. Austin with a master's degree in guidance and counseling, administration supervision, psychology and sociology and completed an additional 30 towards his doctorate degree.

McLaren's long career in education began as a math, English and history teacher

at Logansport High School where he also coached football, basketball and track and served as guidance counselor and assistant principal. McLaren was appointed supervisor of special services for DeSoto Parish Schools in 1965 and was elected superintendent of schools where he served 13 years and developed the Four Phase program, a quality education initiative that received national attention for easing the transition during public school integration. He also initiated reading and math laboratories and provided kindergarten programs for all schools in the parish. He was active in the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents and was named Who's Who in Louisiana by the U.S. Public Relations Service. In 2015, he was inducted into Northwestern State University's Hall of Distinguished Educators.

McLaren was also active in his community as a member of Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi, the Masonic Lodge, the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the DeSoto Parish Hospital Association. After moving to Natchitoches, he enjoyed the Walter Ledet Coffee Club and attended Trinity Episcopal Church.

McLaren was one of five brothers and

the only one to finish high school. He was the first person in his family to graduate from college.

"Doug loved school. He was determined to get his education," Mrs. McLaren said. "He only lacked his thesis to complete his doctoral degree, but he was made superintendent of schools and was too busy being superintendent to finish the doctorate. His life was very interesting."

McLaren had a lasting positive influence on many of the students he taught and coached who would write him letters later in life and one who named a child after him.

The Douglas McLaren Scholarship is one of few offered to graduate students in education and his family intends to add contributions to celebrate Father's Day and other holidays in lieu of flowers.

"He was a kind and gentle man," Mrs. McLaren said. "And he was all about the students."

For information on contributing to the Douglas McLaren Scholarship, contact NSU Development Officer Jill Bankston at (318) 357-4414 email bankstonk@nsula.edu or visit northwesternalumni.com.

Felix Monette Scholarship will be awarded to a history major

Felix "T-Fra" Monette Jr. grew up in the Creole community in a time when his friends and family commonly spoke a broken dialect of French. A born storyteller, he loved meeting people and telling jokes. In his later years, he worked at the Creole Heritage Center on the campus of Northwestern State University where he educated many people about Creole Heritage, from small children to scholars, politicians and business executives with jokes thrown in *en fraçais*.

Monette's family will honor his memory by establishing a scholarship at Northwestern State University to benefit a sophomore or junior pursuing a degree in history with a concentration in folklife. Preference will be given to a Louisiana native. The first scholarship will be awarded this fall. The recipient must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or better.

Born in 1930, Monette grew up on the banks of Little River near Cloutierville. He loved visiting neighbors, listening as they told stories of times past and learning from them how his family came to settle in Louisiana. Although he was expected to work hard with his father and brothers on the family farm, his family encouraged his free-spirited nature. He was the favorite of

his sister Alberta and it was through her that he met the love of his life, Cecile Rachal, whom he married in 1952. They were married for over 61 years. Monette passed away in 2013.

"We chose to award the scholarship to a history major because he volunteered a lot of time at the Creole Heritage Center and, along with [Professor of Anthropology] Dr. Pete Gregory sat on panel discussions about Creole culture and participated in La Table Francaise," said Monette's daughter, Judy Rachal. "When he heard proper French, he could follow along but it wasn't the same as what he spoke growing up."

The Creole Heritage Center serves as an office of support to Louisiana and national Creole communities and organizations, offering advice and assistance in matters that affect Creoles. The Center also serves as a central clearinghouse/information bank for these communities and for those seeking knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Louisiana Creoles and their culture.

Monette's granddaughter Courtney Rachal hopes applicants will have qualities like her grandfather: family-oriented, enthusiastic, open to new experiences and interested in meeting new people.

"Someone with an outgoing personal-

ity," Judy added, "Because that was my dad. He never met a stranger."

The Monette and Rachal families have strong ties to Northwestern State, with members having earned degrees there, been employed there or both.

"NSU is part of our family," Judy said. "This is something Daddy would have wanted to do. He worked here for many years and knew everybody on campus."

The family plans to hold a fund raiser for the scholarship this summer. Details are forthcoming on that event.

For more information on the scholarship, to pick up an application or for more information on scholarships at NSU, contact NSU Development Officer Kimberly Gallow at (318) 357-4414 or gallowk@nsula.edu or visit northwesternalumni.com. For information on the Creole Heritage Center, visit creole.nsula.edu.





C.A. Conine Scholarship supports students with disabilities



Connie Conine of Natchitoches established a scholarship that will be awarded to a student registered with NSU's Disability Services Office. From left are NSU Foundation Director Drake Owens, Development Officers Jill Bankston, CFRE, and Kimberly Gallow; Conine, Development Officer Brittany McConathy, Director of Disability Support Catherine Fauchaux and Holley Shivers, counselor.

A Northwestern State University graduate established a scholarship to benefit students with disabilities who may need financial assistance to pay for aids and technologies that help them succeed academically. The C.A. Conine Scholarship will be awarded to a student registered with NSU's Office of Disability Support and must be in financial need. The student must maintain a 2.5 grade point average.

Connie Conine of Natchitoches was led to establish the scholarship because she herself copes with epilepsy, an ADA-recognized condition.

"My mother did not hover," she said. "She let me live my life."

Conine said her intent is to help students who may need special technology or additional assistance to complete their studies. She pointed out that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not include protection for individuals with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was not signed into law until 1990 by President George H. W. Bush.

"This scholarship will help students pay for technology and additional fees they couldn't get through financial aid," said Catherine Fauchaux, director of Disability Support. "They may need braille textbooks, assistive technologies or they may have a laptop and need specific computer programs, such as zoom text, digital transcribers and text-to-speech components. Student have different learning styles, whether they learn material by hearing it, seeing it or speaking it. The technology available now is impressive."

"This is a special scholarship," said Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation. "Northwestern State is committed to supporting and seeking resources for our students who face extra challenges. We appreciate Ms. Conine's compassion and her generous gift."

"Connie Conine is a remarkable, compassionate lady who has overcome challenges in her own life," said NSU Development Officer Jill Bankston, CFRE. "Connie remembers what it's like to battle those challenges, and has generously given back so that an NSU student has one less thing to fight through when they are earning their education."

Conine previously established the L.C. and Trudy Conine Endowed Scholarship to benefit a student who intends to pursue a career in the medical field. Conine was a chemistry/zoology major at Northwestern State and enjoyed a 40-year career as a medical technician in a hospital lab in Dallas.

"When you see handicapped stickers on cars, you don't know why they are there. It makes you reflect. Not all disabilities are visible," Conine said. She described the ideal recipient for the scholarship as "someone who might be discouraged from trying to get to school to study, but if there was a way to get that extra help, they would go for it."

For more information on scholarships available through the NSU Foundation, call (318)-357-4414 or visit northwesternalumni.com.

John Phillip Allen
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his early life and graduated from Robeline High School," Hicks said. "We are honoring him as a hard worker and a great classmate. He was a great role model."

Robeline High School, home of the Bulldogs, closed in 1980.

McWilliams said when he and Hicks decided to create the scholarship, they were surprised at how many classmates were deceased or unable to be located. They realized that time is of the essence.

"Establishing a scholarship is a college or university is fairly easy," he said. "Contact the institution of your choice and they will guide you in the process. You will be able to determine the criteria and method of awarding the scholarship. If you have the time and inclination to set up a scholarship, get on with it. It is a wonderful way to honor a former athlete, Sunday School teacher, math teacher or school administrator or you may honor them by simply donating to the John Phillip Allen Scholarship."

Contributions to the John Phillip Allen Memorial Scholarship can be made through the NSU Foundation by calling (318) 357-4414 or by visiting northwesternalumni.com.

Trey McCrory : Courage personified on and off the court

By Doug Ireland

Courage - the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery. That's the Dictionary.com definition.

Trey McCrory is an incredible case in point. We've watched courage personified for the last four years by the undaunted Northwestern State Demon basketball manager.

Early last year, I wrote this profile, and all modesty aside, it's still spot on.

Trey McCrory is the odd man in.

At 5-foot-5, 124-pounds, he doesn't seem to fit into the scene around the Northwestern State basketball team. He's surrounded by very tall college players, all the way up to 6-11 Reginald Kissoonlal, whose hair adds another 4-5 inches to his stature. Coaches Mike McConathy, Bill Lewit, Jeff Moore, Jacob Spielbauer and Luke Rogers all played college basketball.

Then there's Trey. He certainly doesn't look the part. Despite appearances, he is very much a core part of the team, which collectively regards him as a little brother of sorts, and depends on him to help them prepare for every early morning practice, let alone each game. He is a 24-year-old graduate manager for McConathy's Demons, in his second season actively involved with the team after a decade of being inside the circle as a fan, since he was a boy growing up in north Natchitoches Parish.

There are other short, and slight, people involved with Division I men's basketball teams around the country.

He's more than likely the only blind one.

You read right. Demon basketball graduate manager Trey McCrory is legally blind.

McCrory can see fine for 5-7 feet in front of him. Past that, things blur. But what he sees goes infinitely past that substantial barrier.

"Me not being able to see with my physical eyes, I see people with my heart. That's really how I look at people, what they're about, how they conduct themselves. There's a lot more good out there than we realize," he said.

Unfortunately, there's also the other side. Whether or not somebody made an unkind remark, McCrory could readily sense when people assumed his capacity was diminished.

"There have been days I just wanted to give up, honestly. I would put a smile on my face most times, but I so wished I could get rid of the disability. There were a lot of doubters, people who don't take the time to really understand those of us who have limitations," he said.

There was never any doubt about the embrace offered by the Demon basketball program. While he was in elementary school over a dozen years ago, McCrory's family started bringing him to games at Prather Coliseum and almost instantly, he was welcomed by the team, particularly star forward Jermaine Spencer.

"Jermaine took me in as his little sidekick, as he would say. I loved the way he played with passion on the court, and then he was so friendly to me. Coach McConathy came through the stands before every game saying hello to everybody. They started inviting me back to the locker room for the team huddle after the games," remembered McCrory. "The family structure is what appealed to me. You always feel welcomed."

While he grew up, he remained a favorite fan, continuing when he enrolled at NSU. In his junior year, the Demons



Continued on page 15

McCory continued from page 14

reached the 2013 NCAA Tournament and landed a game five hours away in Austin, Texas. McConathy decided to reward McCrory's loyalty by inviting him to join the team on the trip. That fascinating experience eventually prompted McCrory to want more. He asked his friend Lewit, an assistant coach, about becoming a student assistant, and McConathy embraced the idea.

"The first three years of college, I wondered, what the heck am I going to do? When I stepped foot in that gym and started working last year, I took a turn for the better. From then to now, there's a huge difference in my approach. I know there are doubters still, but I have confidence in myself because of the confidence these guys have shown in me," he said.

McConathy has confidence in him because of the tenacity he's shown in his studies. McCrory graduated from NSU in May 2015 with degrees in psychology and addiction studies. He is pursuing a master's degree in sport administration.

"School's pretty stressful for him because it does take him longer to process the information presented in written form, much longer than you or I need. The way he handles it, causes you to take a step back and be inspired. We can all learn from Trey."

McCrory doesn't know enough basketball strategy to be a coach, but he and McConathy are convinced there's a future for him around the game as an operations manager, handling logistics such as team travel, marketing, public relations, equipment oversight, and recruiting functions that can take away from the coaches' focus on the basketball end of things.

"He's willing to do the things a lot of people don't want to do. He's looks at it as an opportunity, rather than being skeptical," said McConathy. "The kids love him. He's a great example of somebody who never complains, never finds fault, and if you had a team of Trey McCrorys, you'd win every game."

"He has courage. He looks at being blind as an opportunity to help. What a great outlook. He's learning that the ceiling isn't low as too many people would assume. We're all learning that, too."

--

In January, McCrory was named one of 10 finalists for the U.S. Basketball Writers' Association's annual "Most Courageous Award" for major college basketball. He was stunned, and moved. He still is.

The previous winners, for an award first given in 1978, include public figures like the late Jim Valvano, former Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson, and current Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr. Their stories typically include dealing with dread diseases, tragic events or overwhelming odds.

McCrory's life story, not just what he did recently, fits that lofty standard.

Most of the other finalists faced profound challenges in their lives. None of those were chosen for this year's Most Courageous Award. Instead, the selection panel opted to recognize a social activist from one of the country's high-profile programs, Wisconsin senior guard Bronson Koenig, whose Native American heritage contributed to his decision to travel to Standing Rock, N.D., to join the hot-button protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

My purpose here is not in any way to demean Koenig, a truly remarkable young man whose courage to join those



protests is commendable. I salute him, and the noble people who peacefully protested the Dakota Access Pipeline. Making a stand for your principles is not only gutsy, but always American in my book, even if I may disagree with your perspective.

But I am disappointed with the decision to pass over McCrory and several other truly heroic finalists for the 2017 Most Courageous Award. If not NSU's man, perhaps somebody like these incredibly courageous figures in college hoops this year:

Colorado State's Emmanuel Omogbo lost his parents, a niece and nephew in a house fire in his Maryland home last February. He played two days later, returned home for the funerals, then rejoined his team.

Josh Speidel of Vermont was in a car accident and sustained a traumatic brain injury two years ago, before entering college. His recovery defied the prognosis and he is now a freshman for the Catamounts.

As a high school senior, Omaha's Kyler Erickson witnessed a fatal school shooting. He faced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder issues throughout his college career.

Those three and McCrory were my personal Final Four for the 2017 Most Courageous Award. They seem to best fit the standard set over the years.

There was a group of distinguished USBWA leaders who considered the decision. Anyone who has ever tried to pick one winner from a pool of awe-inspiring finalists can identify with their dilemma.

Anyone who has ever heard Trey McCrory's story knows he was very worthy experiencing the Final Four in Phoenix to pick up the Most Courageous honor at the USBWA's Awards Brunch. His courage didn't just manifest itself recently. It's been obvious every moment of his life, and it will inspire countless others for decades to come.



Coach O comes home to NSU

It's nothing unusual for LSU football coach Ed Orgeron to immediately be flocked by fans when he enters a room, but on the first Friday evening in May, the people waiting for him in Natchitoches were fellow former Northwestern State players.

As Orgeron and his wife Kelly walked into the new Chateau Saint Denis Hotel, he veered to bear-hug J.P. Dunbar, Gary Morgan and Petey Perot, who were already reliving stories from their Demon days, and about the bold Cajun they know as "BeBe."

It kicked off an evening filled with reunions and excitement as NSU featured Orgeron for its sixth annual Legends Gala supporting the Demons Unlimited Foundation. It was difficult to tell who was more delighted – Orgeron, or everyone else.

He proudly touted the fact that he earned his NSU degree while playing for head coaches A.L. Williams (1980-82) and Sam Goodwin (1983),

and began his coaching career under Goodwin in 1984.

"What an honor it is to sit here as a graduate of Northwestern State University. Those were special years," he said. "The thing I loved most was my teammates. We had a great time here. Natchitoches was a great place to grow up in, and become a man.

"The biggest thing was I got my degree and I got networked in college coaching. I got to Arkansas because of Coach Goodwin and John Thompson. I got to Miami because of Bill Johnson, and on my career went, so I'm forever grateful to Northwestern State."

Goodwin took over the program for Orgeron's senior season. At that time Orgeron was a talented and productive defensive tackle who played with tremendous passion, but was admittedly adventurous off the field. Goodwin asked him to set a better example when he wasn't wearing a helmet.

"We have some great, great memories here on the field, off the field. It was just a great time in our lives."

He ticked off a few football highlights against rivals such as McNeese, UL Monroe, Stephen F. Austin and Nicholls, but nothing compared to the game he had as a senior against arch-rival Louisiana Tech. Goodwin recalled Orgeron on a fourth-and-one play, gesturing to the Bulldogs as they approached the line, exhorting them to try his side of the line.

"It was fourth-and-one on the goal-

line, and I wanted them to run my way. They did, and they didn't make it," he said, grinning broadly. "I had two and a half sacks. There must've been 40,000 people there in Shreveport. A.L. Williams, who recruited me here, was on the other sideline with several of the coaches who had been at Northwestern, so the game was very, very special. It was a nice atmosphere."

Orgeron's pride in being the LSU coach oozes out of him at every turn.

His pride in Demon football was equally obvious.

"We had Bobby Hebert, Joe Delaney, Mark Duper, Petey Perot, Gary Reasons, Sidney Thornton, all guys who had good-to-great NFL careers. We followed Petey and Sidney and we tried to uphold that tradition. I don't know if they had recruiting ratings in those days, but the coaches here did a great job of identifying talent and players who could develop, and then bringing them along," he said.

Throughout his coaching career, Orgeron said he's always kept tabs on two programs.

"All the time I've been watching the Demons, keeping up with them, who is coaching, who are they recruiting, and I did the same with LSU. When I was at Miami, when I was at Syracuse, when I was at USC, I always kept up with the Demons and the Tigers," he said. "I have tremendous pride in being the football coach at LSU, and I have tremendous pride in this program, this university, this beautiful community."



Marvin Herring of Fort Worth, a member of the 1957-58 track and field team coached by Walter Ledet, donated his N Club sweater to the NSU Athletic Department to be displayed in the Fieldhouse. Herring, 80, is still an avid runner and can run a 3:20 800m. Herring requested the following quote on the name plate in the shadowbox: "Live to run, run to live." From left are NSU Athletic Director Greg Burke, Herring, Erica Conover, director of development and engagement, and Dr. Haley Blount Taitano, associate athletic director for External Affairs/senior woman administrator.

Guess Who



crowd (after 'Gimme A D!', etc.), Demons was spelled correctly. Can you name them? Email jacksonl@nsula.edu and include your current city of residence and the year you graduated.

Answers to Mr. and Miss NSU pictured in Potpourri in 1977 are Donna King and Stan Haynes.

Donna King, kindergarten and primary-special education major, was very active during her college career. She served as chapter president of Sigma Kappa Sorority and was chosen as Outstanding Sorority Woman of 1976. She was a member of the State Fair Court and elected to Who's Who Among American College Students. Donna was a member of the Student Body Association and the Student Governing Board. She had several committee positions with these two organizations and served as president of Purple Jackets.

Stan Haynes, distributive education major, was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and served as vice president of men on the Student Body Association. He served as a cheerleader for two years and lettered two years as an athletic football trainer for Northwestern. Stan served as a senator-at-large in the SBA and was a member of the university's Interracial Committee. He was also elected to Who's Who Among College Students.

Guessing correctly was:
Debbie Rodriguez Gisclair (1978), Galiano



In Memory

- 1939 - Dr. Donald Shipp, August 15, 2016, Shreveport
- 1941 - Juanita Brinsmade, June 11, 2014, Cocoa, Florida
- 1943 - Dr. Thomas Paul Southerland, March 2, 2017, Natchitoches
- 1951, 1953 - Jack branch, April 4, 2017, Little Rock, Arkansas
- 1955 - Ledore Gallien, March 3, 2017, Natchitoches
- 1955 - Col. (Ret.) Jimmie Kinnison, March 8, 2017, Hammond
- 1957 - Douglas McLaren, April 20, 2017, Natchitoches
- 1959 - David Graham Sr., April 13, 2017, Natchitoches
- 1959 - Doris Lantrip Murray, April 25, 2016, Anna, Texas
- 1960 - John Daris Stockstill, July 18, 2016, Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- 1961 - Shirley Lambert, August 2016, Shreveport
- 1962 - Marilyn Lloyd, July 28, 2016, Pineville
- 1961 - Gloria Ann Marquis, March 14, 2017, Alvin, Texas
- 1968 - Rose Landry Long, April 30, 2017, Natchitoches
- 1971 - Jimmy Stewart, April 8, 2017, Doyline
- 1972 - Robert Ray Hardee, April 14, 2017, Lake Charles
- 2000 - Julie Hudspeth Warren, December 25, 2016, Shreveport
- 2004 - Aehui Oetter, March 8, 2017, DeRidder
- Claire Hargis Greene, March 1, 2017, Natchitoches
- Raymond T. Moss, May 30, 2015

Looking Back



Though it lacked the lasting fanfare of "Steel Magnolias," another movie debuted in the early 90s that featured the beauty of Natchitoches and the surrounding area. "The Man in the Moon," starring a young Reese Witherspoon was shot in and around Natchitoches, Robeline, Many and Black Lake during the summer of 1990. Set in the 1950s, the film centers around 14-year-

old Dani Trant who shares her hopes and dreams with her older sister Maureen and the conflicts that result when Dani and Maureen are attracted to the same young man. Reviewing the film in the 1992 Potpourri, Scott Jolley called the film unadorned and refreshing for its abundance of talent, story and beautifully shot scenes, speculating that its lead actress might one day outshine another actress who got her big break in a movie filmed in Natchitoches.



Northwestern State University honored 1967 graduate who collected their second diplomas during Spring Commencement. Those celebrating their Golden Jubilee were, **first row bottom (L to R):** Lusetta Rogers Anthony, Jimmie Hilborn King, Gene Daniel, Kenneth R. Baker, Carolyn Pennington Eubanks, Shelton Eugene Eubanks, Sandra Guidry Mims, Mary Ruth Bradley Corley, Marilyn B. Andrus, Shirley Shaffer Payne. **2nd:** Carmen Corbett Wainwright, Sue Cloutier Russell, Brenda Cofield Tabor Wilson, Carey H. Blanchard III, Jimmie L. Ellis, Charles Larry Cash, Dr. Thomas Nelson Carlton, Linda Webb Matthews, Chris W. Weaver, Carrie Elizabeth Chapman Reed. **3rd:** Alvin R. Goodwin, Donald C. Turnbow, John Paul Broussard, Audrey Burkhalter Broussard, Joyce S. Franklin, Pauline S. Bohannon, Judy Bland Cogburn, Kathy Gaddis Roan. **4th:** Ronnie E. Wright, Sr., Curtis Bodin, Jr., Tommy G. Chester, Michael D. Andrus, Dianne Fenton Taylor, Charles Ray Comish, Ronald P. Roan, R. M. "Ric" Trout, Elaine Squyres Durand, Betty Morgan Rowell, Elaine Lauw Bonaventure, Harold L. Bonaventure Jr.